

38. *CAESALPINIA HYMENOCARPA* (PRAIN) HATTINK, COMB.-
NOV. — A SUPERFLUOUS NAME

During the revision of *Caesalpinia* Linn. for 'THE WEALTH OF INDIA: A Dictionary of Indian Raw Materials', the following observations have been made by us regarding the nomenclature of *C. hymenocarpa* (Prain) Hattink comb. nov. Since the monographic revision by Hattink (1974) was for 'The Flora Malesiana', the authors felt the urgency for necessary corrections.

The name *C. hymenocarpa*, first published by Wallich (*Cat. List. No. 5832*, 1831), is a *nomen nudum* and hence invalid. Wight and Arnott (1834) mentioned that *C. hymenocarpa* Wall. belongs to *Mezonev(u)ron* Desf., but again this happened to be a *nomen nudum*. Hooker f. and Jackson (1895) attributed *M. hymenocarpum* to Wight and Arnott, whereas Hattink attributed it to Jackson (1895) (? Hooker f. & Jackson, 1895). This reference also happens to be a *nomen nudum*.

Baker (1878), while working on Leguminosae for THE FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA, mentioned *C. hymenocarpa* Wall., as a synonym, under *M. pubescens* Desf., incidentally validating Wallich's binomial. But, this placement, was wrong, since the plant of Desfontaines is different from *C. hymenocarpa* Wall. Prain (1897) attributed the binomial *Mezoneuron hymenocarpum* to Wight and Arnott and refers to the work of Baker in THE FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA as a synonym (*non* Desf.) along with *C. hymenocarpa* Wall. and *C. glenniei* Thw. Prain distinguished this species from others and discussed their relationships. The quotation of the name of Wallich by Baker, and later Prain quoting the work of Baker (*non* Desf.)

in THE FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA as a synonym to the supposed binomial of Wight and Arnott *M. hymenocarpum* validate *C. hymenocarpa* Wall. as well as *M. hymenocarpum* Wt. & Arn. This results in *C. hymenocarpa* Wall. *ex* Baker under *Caesalpinia*, and *M. hymenocarpum* [Wall. (? *ex* Baker)] Wt. & Arn. *ex* Prain under *Mezoneuron*; if Baker's validation is, for any reason, not accepted, the binomial should be *C. hymenocarpa* Wall. *ex* Prain under *Caesalpinia* and *M. hymenocarpum* (Wall. *ex* Prain) Wt. & Arn. *ex* Prain.

These observations, perhaps, escaped the notice of Hattink who made a new combination with Wallich's plant as type and Wallich's original binomial as a base.

In our view, the combination of Hattink happens to be a superfluous name and the details of the taxon shall be as follows:

Caesalpinia hymenocarpa Wall., *Cat. List* No. 5832, 1831, *nomen nudum*; *ex* Baker in Hooker f. *Fl. Brit. India*, 2, 259, 1878.

Mezonev(u)ron pubescens Baker, *loc. cit.*; *non* Desf.

M. hymenocarpum [Wall. (? *ex* Baker)] Wt. & Arn., *Prod.* 283, 1834, *nomen nudum*; *ex* Prain, *J. Asiatic Soc. Beng.*, 66, Pt. ii (2), 472, 1897; Hooker f. & Jackson, *Ind. Kew.*, 2, 223, 1895, *nomen nudum*.

C. hymenocarpa (Prain) Hattink, *Reinwardtia*, 9, 35, 1974.

Thanks are due to Mr Y. R. Chadha, Chief Editor, and Mrs K. Ramachandran, Scientist, Wealth of India, PID, for the facilities provided.

PUBLICATIONS & INFORMATION

DIRECTORATE,
HILLSIDE ROAD,
NEW DELHI 110 012,
March 7, 1981.

TENJARLA C. S. SASTRY
G. B. KALE

REFERENCES

- BAKER, J. C. in HOOKER, J. D. (1878): The Flora of British India, L. Reeve & Co. Ltd., Kent, Rep. 1961, 259.
- HATTINK, T. A. (1974): A Revision of Malesian *Caesalpinia* including *Mezoneuron* (Leguminosae — *Caesalpinaceae*), *Reinwardtia*, 9: 35.
- HOOKER, J. D. & JACKSON, B. D. (1895): Index Kewensis — Plantarum Phanerogamarum. Oxford University Press, London, 2: 223.
- PRAIN, D. (1897): Some additional Leguminosae. *J. Asiatic Soc., Beng.*, 66, Pt ii (2), 472; *Noviciae Indicae*: Some additional species of Indian plants. West, Newman & Co., London, 1905, 306.
- WIGHT, R. & WALKER-ARNOTT, G. A. (1834): *Prodromus Florae Peninsulae India, Orientalis*. Parbury Allen & Co., London, p. 283.

39. RECORD OF *DATURA FEROX* L. FROM MAHARASHTRA

During plant collections in Akola and Pune districts of Maharashtra an interesting species of *Datura* Linn. was collected, which after critical studies was identified as *D. ferox* L. This plant is a native of China, so far, it has been reported in India from Rajasthan only by Bhandari & Mehta (1980). It is reported here for the first time from Maharashtra. This species can be easily identified from other species of *Datura* L. by its large and very stout unequal spines covering the capsule. This species may possibly occur in other parts of India also, as it might have been erroneously kept under other species. All the specimens examined have been deposited in the herbarium of Western Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Pune (BSI).

Its citation, field notes etc. are as follows:

Datura ferox L. Amoen. Acad. 3: 403. 1756; Avery *et al.* in Blakeslee, Genus *Datura* 21-22 fig. 4. 1959; Haegi, Austr. J. Bot. 24: 415-435.

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
WESTERN CIRCLE,
PUNE,
February 17, 1981.

1976; Bhandari & Mehta in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 76: 550-551. fig. 5. 1980.

Field notes: An undershrub, upto 1.5 m high, in waste places along with *Abutilon indicum* (L.) Sweet, *Amaranthus spinosus* L., *Cassia tora* L. and *Xanthium strumarium* L. Flowers white. Fruits green drying brown, erect. Seeds many, black.

Specimens examined: MAHARASHTRA: Akola district: Medhshi village, Kamble 150101, August 1977; Pune district: Koregaon Park, Anand Kumar 66356, December, 1980.

Fls. & Fr.: August-December.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for facilities and to Dr. B. D. Sharma, Deputy Director, Western Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Pune for encouragement during the course of this work.

S. Y. KAMBLE
ANAND KUMAR
S. G. PRADHAN